

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method is disclosed for discovering data communication network configuration information. In the method the following steps are executed: invoking a network discovery function; executing the invoked network discovery function to examine the network using individual ones of a plurality of network configuration discovery protocols and, during the execution of the step of examining, building a list containing discovered network configuration information. The plurality of network configuration discovery protocols include a set of protocols selected from a Salutation protocol, a Service Location Protocol (SLP), a Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP), Domain Name Services (DNS) protocols, and a Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP). The DNS protocols may include at least one of a DNS SRV Record protocol, a DNS MX Record protocol, a DNS Start of Authority Protocol, a DNA NS protocol and a DNS PTR protocol. During the execution of the step of examining the network the individual ones of the plurality of network configuration discovery protocols are executed sequentially, such as in a sequence of the Salutation protocol, the SLP, the LDAP, the DNS protocols and the DHCP. The list is preferably stored as a location object in a persistent database, and a location object may be imported into the persistent database, or exported from the persistent database. For the case where the location object is exported from the persistent database, it can be made available to be imported into another persistent database. An application program queries the persistent database for a location object, and uses the network configuration information stored in the location object while connected or attached to a network from which the location object was derived.